

Lesson # 9 -- The Biblical Exhortations Regarding Hope.

Introduction

A. In reviewing the Biblical exhortations regarding hope we are again reminded of the privilege of being a Christian.

1. As believers we can respond to God in faith, love and hope.
2. This ability, which all believers possess, makes it possible for us to pray, worship and serve God, and to receive all the provisions and benefits He has provided for our daily life.

B. Summary: principles regarding hope.

1. Hope is an ability, similar to a function, and therefore must be practiced to produce benefit (Romans 15:13).
2. Hope is primarily a decision closely related to and dependent on faith and love (I Cor. 13:13; I Thess. 1:3).
3. Hope is not primarily a feeling. It is a choice to evaluate the future (immediate and remote) on the basis of faith and love in God. Therefore, hope is a decision to have an attitude and to initiate a procedure regarding the future which would be characterized as "the certainty of faith and love's expectation."
4. Hope is almost destroyed by the failure to practice the truth and exercise faith and love. Doubt, selfishness, fear and hopelessness are quite inseparably related (Luke 24:25).

I. The Basis of These Exhortations.

Colossians 1:27 --

I Timothy 1:1 --

Hebrews 7:19 --

I Peter 1:3 --

II. The Content of These Exhortations.

Romans 5:2-5 --

Romans 15:13 --

Ephesians 1:18 --

Philippians 1:20 --

Hebrews 6:11-20 --

I Peter 1:13 --

I Peter 1:21 --

I John 3:3 --

III. The Procedure Related to These Exhortations.

- A. Observation: Since hope is particularly related to our immediate future (now) it is necessary to choose to apply faith and love, in the practice of the truth, in the most practical manner possible. We must recognize that all our responses to events, people, ideas, ourselves, demands, etc., are inseparably related to our response to God. Therefore, hope must be applied to our thinking process, our emotions and our bodily desires in such a way that we "take charge" of our total response.
 1. God has made a provision so that we can glorify Him in all of the facets and functions of our daily life (I Cor. 10:31).
 2. God addresses us as persons and holds us responsible to glorify Him and live in harmony with the truth (II Peter 1:3-9).
 3. How we appropriate God's provision and become a responsible person is by the application of the Biblical principles regarding faith, love and hope. This is what it means to "take charge".

B. The Biblical Basis for this Procedure of "Taking Charge".

II Corinthians 7:1 --

II Corinthians 10:4,5 --

Galatians 5:22,23 --

Philippians 4:8 --

C. The Biblical Explanation for this Procedure of "Taking Charge".

1. The believer is exhorted to "take charge" of his thinking.

a. The Scripture (see the above verses).

b. The reminder:

1). Three possible sources of wrong thoughts.

a). The sinful nature -- Mark 7:21,21.

b). The sinful world system -- I John 2:16.

c). Satanic suggestion or accusation -- Gen. 3:1-3; Matt. 4:3.

2). We are exhorted to "take charge" of our thinking, refuse those thoughts that are wrong and aggressively choose to think on correct thoughts.

a). Scripture: Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:8; I Thess. 5:8; Eph. 6:11; II Cor. 10:5.

b). Suggested method: "In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take charge of my thinking. I refuse to accept that thought of _____. In dependence on the True and Living God I bring all my thinking into subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The believer is exhorted to "take charge" of his emotions.

It is just as wrong, if not more so, to accept the feeling of hopelessness and to act on it as it would be to accept a wrong bodily desire and then to put that into practice. The believer has no reason to be hopeless. Reject all hopelessness and affirm the truth of Romans 15:13.

3. The believer is exhorted to "take charge" of his bodily desires.

a. The same explanation and many of the verses given above would also apply here. Note also Eph. 4:22-32; Col. 3:1-14; and Romans 6:1-18.

b. The Bible is very emphatic that we may not allow ourselves to be manipulated by our bodily desires.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God
Romans 6:11-13

c. Use the same method suggested above.

Observation:

a. God has promised us freedom. This freedom, however, must be our aggressive choice. When we so choose -- and apply faith, love and hope in a practical manner -- then God works in and through us by His power (Phil. 2:12,13).

b. Learn to "take charge" when you first awaken in the morning. Do so often during the day.